

VIETNAM COURIER

August 3

1970

No. 280

7th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. 146 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam



1945-1970

AUGUST 1945, Viet Nam was in an effervescence from the northernmost to the southernmost of her territory. Scores of millions of people were preparing to deal the coup de grace to colonial domination. Throughout nearly a century the Vietnamese had never ceased rising up in arms to regain their independence and freedom although during these decades, each rebellion had been defeated. August 1945. This time, everyone felt sure of victory. In every village, every quarter, every street, the whole nation was poised for an insurrection.

Then came the never-to-be-forgotten days of August: in a spell of two weeks, from North to South, from the big cities of Hanoi, Saigon and Hue to the remotest villages, a tidal wave rose and swept away the French colonial regime and the pro-Japanese puppet administration like chaff in the wind.

With their own hands the Vietnamese people had effectively recovered their

independence, one that would be solemnly proclaimed on September 2 by a beloved and respected patriot — Ho Chi Minh.

Twenty-five years have passed by since these historic days. The French and the American imperialists have been persistently assaulting the young Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, trying in vain to strangle and destroy all the new structures Vietnamese have been able to build. In the last twenty-five years, the DRVN has not only successfully safeguarded her independence but also succeeded in shaping a new economy, society and culture.

Viet Nam Courier will dedicate many pages in its coming issues to the history and achievements of the DRVN, during those years. To begin with, we give our readers, in a brief chronology of momentous facts and events, a survey of a pregnant historical period.

(See page 4)

SOUTH VIET NAM TOWNSFOLK VERSUS US - PUPPET REGIME

SINCE early this year, all South Viet Nam towns and cities, especially Saigon, have been in the throes of a powerful political agitation for peace, democratic rights and an end to the US war of aggression. Most remarkable have been its continuity and proportions, its most variegated, flexible and creative forms, and participation by large social sections.

ACTIONS BY STUDENTS

THE students and pupils' movement which smoldered in January and February, has flared up quite powerfully since March 11 when the Thieu - Ky - Khiem illegally arrested 40 Saigonese students including Huynh Tan Nam, acting President of the Saigon Students' Union.

The actions which broke out in Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, spread like a prairie fire to all the urban centres in the South: they were the

strikes of 6,000 medical students in Saigon, of over 30,000 students from fifteen higher education schools in Saigon - Cholon, the general strike of 60,000 students in all South Viet Nam population centres. With the participation of the five Saigon, Van Hanh, Da Lat, Can Tho, Hue universities and 4,000 secondary schools in all South Viet Nam towns, the number of protesters reached over one million.

Apart from meetings, demonstrations, strikes, teach-ins, news conferences, petitions, the students and pupils staged hunger-strikes, "sleepless nights," used motorbikes and other motorized means to transport demonstrators to the "National Assembly," the "Ministry of Education," the "Ministry of Justice," the "Ministry Court," the US Embassy; they booted Nguyen Van Thieu as a "dictator" when he attended the funeral of Phan Khac Suu (ex-puppet "Head of State"),

and turned it into an anti-US-puppet occasion.

The alarmed Saigon authorities tried bribery, deceit and terror. They ordered the closing of the schools, a prolonged curfew and moved into Saigon and Hue tens of thousands of puppet troops to guard them.

But these measures, far from alleviating the tension

(Continued page 7)

★

Saigon students' hunger-strike in protest against the puppet administration repression.

★



In this issue:

The DRVN Is 25 Years Old

HEALTH WORK IN THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE

(Continued)

Page 3

NEW US AIR RAIDS IN NORTH VIET NAM

ON three consecutive days ending July 25, the US bombed Huong Lap village (north of the demarcation line on the 17 Parallel) with B-52s carrying each 30 tons of bombs.

On July 28, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry issued a strong statement against these criminal air strikes.

Incriminating Figures

ON the occasion of the recent debates of the penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam, it has been revealed that:

The US government will earmark next year for perfecting the penitentiary system in South Viet Nam, a sum of 172,000 dollars, 41,000 of which to buy "equipment" (it is assumed this is torture instruments), 77,000 as salary of two US "advisers," 54,000 as costs to send abroad 10 Saigon "experts" for study. 4,065 new cells will be built and 8,000 detention places projected.

The 108,000-strong police force will receive an additional 9.9 million dollar budget to wipe out the "Vietcong

infrastructure." 1,650 watch-towers have been built which will be raised to 1,849. Of the 9.9 million dollars, 6,761,000 will be used for paying 178 US "advisers" and 45 other foreign ones. All the police experience learned from the "free world," from the ex-Nazis, the Japanese and the British in Malaysia can, thanks to the dollars, benefit "pacification" in South Viet Nam.

Who pays, who inspires the methods used in South Viet Nam prisons?

The answer is clear: like all that is being done in South Viet Nam, it is always Washington which inspires and fouts the bill.

RSVN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS INDIA

MME Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, arrived on July 18 in New Delhi on an official visit to the Republic of India, at the invitation of Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh.

She was welcomed at the airport by Suresh Pal Singh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the Minister and many other high-ranking officials of the Ministry.

Numerous deputies, leaders of political parties and mass organizations and other Indian VIPs were also present.

Thousands of New Delhians, banners and bouquets in hand, cheered her with slogans: "Long live Ho Chi Minh!", "Heroic Viet Nam will win!", "Down with US imperialist aggressors!"

On July 20, V.V. Giri, President of India, received Mme Binh. She posted him about South Viet Nam's struggle against US invaders and the position of the National Front for Liberation and the PRG of the RSVN in the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

President V.V. Giri expressed his sympathy with the South Vietnamese people's patriotic fight for freedom and independence.

On the morning of July 22, Indian Vice-President G.S. Dhillon had an interview with Mme Nguyen Thi Binh.

On the afternoon of the same day, she called on Premier Indira Gandhi.

Mrs Indira Gandhi made clear her support for the South Vietnamese heroic struggle. Mme Nguyen Thi Binh sincerely thanked the Indian Government for its friendly reception and the Indian people for their support for the South Vietnamese just struggle. She handed to Mrs Gandhi a gift from Mr Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRG of the RSVN.

On July 20 and 21, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh attended the receptions given in her honour respectively by Swaran Singh and K. Menon, ex-Defence Minister, Chairman of the All-India Congress Committee.

On the afternoon of July 23, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh left New Delhi for Tripoli to Bangalore (capital of Mysore) and Bombay (capital of Maharashtra).

US WAR OF AGGRESSION VIOLATED INDOCHINA PEOPLES' NATIONAL RIGHTS

World Lawyers' Congress Points Out

THE 6th Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers was held in Helsinki from July 13 to 19 with the participation of 350 lawyers from 55 countries.

The Congress devoted a special plenary session to the Indochina problem. It heard an opening address by Joe Nordmann, Secretary General of the IADL, and speeches by the delegations of the DRVN, the RSVN, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and other delegations.

At its closing session, the Congress unanimously approved a declaration on Indochina and an eleven-point program of action calling on lawyers and peoples in the world to support the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples against the US imperialist aggression and for their national rights.

The Congress unanimously elected the representative of the RSVN one of the Vice-Presidents of the IADL. The Congress stressed in its declaration on Indochina that the criminal war of aggression of the United States violated the fundamental national rights of the peoples of Indochina and menaced peace in Southeast Asia and the whole world; that it irresponsibly supported the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the ten-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the

Republic of South Viet Nam; fully backed the legitimate demand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for US respect of her sovereignty and security and for an end to all US violations of her territory, air space and territorial waters; fully supported the just struggle of the Lao people for national salvation and the five-point solution advanced by the Lao Patriotic Front for the peaceful settlement of the Lao problem; gave unequalled support to the just struggle of the Cambodian people for national salvation conducted under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the sole legitimate and legal Government of the Cambodian people, and endorsed the five-point proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The Congress appealed to all lawyers and peoples in the world to denounce and condemn still more strongly the US war of aggression in Indochina, to expose the Nixon administration's "peace" frauds aimed at misleading world public opinion and at the same time, to increase their support for the just struggle of the three peoples of Indochina till complete victory, and the action of the American people for immediate cessation of the US war of aggression in Indochina.

World TU Conference for Solidarity with Indochina Workers and Peoples

THE World Trade-Unions Conference for Solidarity with the Workers and Peoples of Indochina against US Aggression held in Versailles (France) on July 18 and 19 with the participation of 250 delegates representing 65 trade-unions from 60 countries in the world ended in success.

Also represented at the Conference were the World Peace Council, the International Union of Students, the International Democratic Lawyers' Association, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the International Organization of Journalists.

After the opening address by Benoit Frachon, President of the French General Confederation of Labour, Pierre Gensou, Secretary General of the WFTU, delivered a speech exposing US intervention and aggression all over the world, especially in Indochina. He spoke of the stirring movement of the workers and other people in various countries including those in the United States and South Viet Nam against this policy of the US.

He pointed to the imperative tasks of the Conference, namely to condemn the Nixon Administration's intervention and aggression in Indochina, actively support the sensible proposals of the DRVN Government, the RSVN PRG, the Lao Patriotic Front, and the National United Front of Kampuchea for the settlement of the problems. He called on the workers and peoples of the world to expand and step up activities of solidarity with the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia morally, politically and materially. He proposed to observe the 2nd of September and the 20th of December this year as days of international solidarity with the peoples in Indochina.

On behalf of the workers and peoples of their respective countries, the heads of the delegations of the DRVN, the RSVN, Laos and Cambodia expressed sincere thanks to the workers and peoples of the world for their sympathy with, and support for, the just struggle of the Indochinese peoples and to the WFTU and the

French General Confederation of Labour for the convocation of the Conference which, they said, was a vivid manifestation of the noble spirit of international solidarity and a great inspiration to the peoples in Indochina.

The Conference also heard 36 other speeches by various delegations.

The delegation of the Italian General Confederation of Labour handed to the head of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade-Unions delegation a sum of 40 million lire contributed by Italian workers and people in their current "campaign for solidarity with the Vietnamese workers and people."

The delegation of the Madagascar Federation of Trade-Unions also presented the Vietnamese delegates with a small but meaningful sum of 300 francs.

At its closing session on July 19, the Conference unanimously passed a general resolution, an appeal to the workers and trade-unions in the world, a message to the workers and people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and a message to the workers and people of the United States of America.

The Conference in particular called on the workers and trade-unions of the world to further intensify and enlarge their activities of moral and political support for the Indochinese peoples, to join forces and efforts to make irresistible the strength of the trans-union movement of solidarity, to find and adopt the most efficacious forms of action in each country such as meetings, demonstrations, strikes, including boycott and refusal to handle arms and other war material of the American aggressors bound for the dirty war in Indochina, to enhance material support by increasing the collections of funds, medicines, cloth, transport and communication means, foods and school material, to organize this year a campaign in support of the peoples in Indochina beginning July 20, anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements.

77th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam
(July 30, 1970)

DRVN Delegate Outlines a Solution to Viet Nam Problem

MR Nguyen Van Tien (RSVN) denounced US schemes to perpetuate military occupation of South Viet Nam and to deny the South Vietnamese the right to self-determination. Mr Nguyen Minh Vy (DRVN) pointed out that the American aggressors and their Saigon henchmen had of late piled up new crimes against the Indochinese peoples. Scoring the recent great successes of the Vietnamese, Cambodian

and Lao peoples, he stated: "The United States must promptly and unconditionally pull out its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, discard the dictatorial, bellicose and imperialist policies, disavow and accept the suggested provisional coalition government which will be entrusted with the organization of free democratic elections in South Viet Nam."

2-9-1945

2-9-1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

HEALTH WORK in the Service of the People

DR NGUYEN VAN HUONG
DRVN Health Minister

(Continued)

WHAT made possible such results within a decade? First, a vast sanitary network covering town and country, in which the poorest peasant could profit from its blessings; then new cadres who worked in close co-operation with thousands of herbalists, and finally our scientific researches adjusted to our national conditions.

While, under colonialism, communal health installations were non-existent, there were 200 rural medical stations in 1955 and 5,286 in 1964; in nearly all the villages in the delta and 80 per cent of villages in the mountain region. These stations are adequately equipped to deal with minor cases. Each of them is run by from two to four nurses or midwives. At the end of 1964, they were reinforced by 2,320 assistant-doctors, plus tens of thousands of medical workers working in agricultural co-operatives.

Workshops, mines, construction yards, state agricultural farms and forest enterprises have their own medical establishments. Whereas in 1956 there were 42 hospitals and infirmaries with 1,020 beds for the workers, in 1964 the number of hospitals and infirmaries was 183 and that of beds was 6,136.

Besides the State health network, the Traditional Medical Association runs a dual system in the provinces and districts in the delta. Over 18,000 herbalists operate in the health units in the countryside and urban centres. They have contributed a great deal to diagnosis and therapy as well as to the manufacture of medicines.

The Red Cross at all levels and sanitarians at co-operatives and workshops have rendered very useful service.

Clinics and hospitals have been mushrooming. Each provincial or district capital has its own medical establishment; the number of beds has increased 16 times in ten years.

The thorny problem of formation of professional cadres was resolved according to the following principles:

- crash training;
- use of many methods: regular classical formation, refresher courses run on a continued basis or by stages (a nurse trained in 3 months will be promoted to a higher course six or nine months later), or by correspondence.

Thanks to these methods, we have never run short of medical workers at the front and in the rear. The well-advised alliance with

traditional medicine as well as the practice of acupuncture have made possible to cure many current diseases with gentleness.

With regard to research, we have striven to apply up-to-date scientific realizations to our practical conditions. For instance we have tackled the production of dead BCG vaccine - easier to transport - without need for refrigerators and other equipment which are now lacking, replaced antibiotics with the bacillus displaying many vegetable antibiotics and manufactured the Sabin Choumakov vaccine.

Our researchers have paid keen attention to traditional medicine, discovered and applied specific prophylactic and therapeutic methods chiefly by utilizing many newly discovered medicinal plants. Of course western treatments used in other countries are not neglected; these have enabled our researchers to achieve successes in operations on the heart, lungs and liver, as well as on pharyngo-laryngeal cancers.

AFTER 1965, savage US bombings forced us into an important reorganization of our work.

Bombs fell at random on our towns and villages, destroying markets, churches, schools, hospitals, killing women, children and old-agers. In four years, most of the provincial and district hospitals as well as a great number of rural medical stations suffered heavy damage. Over 600 big establishments were destroyed, including the Quynh Lap leper-sanatorium and the Thanh Hoa tuberculosis sanatorium. Hundreds of patients fell victims to bombs and the medical personnel, doctors included, took heavy casualties.

It was not by chance that nearly all our medical establishments were the targets of violent US air raids. The intention of the US command was left in no doubt: while killing civilians, it wanted to deprive us of the means to rescue them and to demoralize them. The calculation was vicious but the hope was illusory. Our cadres as well as people were not cowed. Responding to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," they fearlessly fought back the US air force and took appropriate steps to reduce our losses to the minimum.

We rapidly shifted from the state of peace to the state of war, and readjusted our organization to the most unexpected situations in order to help production and the fighting at any cost.

We strengthened our basic network and organized first aid at all levels, beginning with production brigades in agricultural production. Under the slogans: "Strengthen the frontline" and "Teach emergency surgery to all medical hands," we succeeded little by little in turning our grass-roots units into first-aid stations capable of meeting most urgent needs.

While in 1964, there were still inadequacies in the medical network at agricultural co-operative level, by the end of 1964 most of co-ops had had a medical worker; about 50 per cent had a first-aid station. In the provinces in the 4th Military Zone, chiefly in Vinh Linh and Quang Binh,

progress in this has been the greatest. All the agricultural co-operatives in Quang Binh province have their own medical group.

The rural medical stations have also been greatly extended, thanks chiefly to better equipment. From 5,286 in 1964, they numbered 6,041 in 1968, or 17 per cent of villages in North Viet Nam. Seventy per cent of them are run by assistant-doctors. In Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area, in particular, all the rural medical stations are headed by an assistant-doctor, some by two or three. All the villages possess a permanent pharmacy and many medicine chests.

Thanks to an adequate organization, we were not outstripped by US super-sonic missiles. All the wounded received first aid and 60 per cent of them were immediately operated upon in the same villages.

District hospitals have been adequately equipped and staffed to handle ordinary surgical operations as well as obstetrical operations and emergency operations of war wounds. All the districts had been provided with such establishments by the end of 1968 as against 27 per cent only in 1964.

As after March 31, 1968, the Yankees have been focusing their attacks on provinces located south of the 16th Parallel, the district hospitals and rural medical stations there have been playing the leading role in the help given to the wounded.

The setting up of a vast medical network reaching down to villages has proved to be quite efficient. No doubt that the lack of such a network in peace time would have caused us heavier losses in war time.

Guided by the "preserve human lives" watchword of the people's war, we have

(Continued page 7)

* A village consists in general of 4 or 5 hamlets which are organized each into an agricultural co-operative.



A rural maternity home

FROM AUGUST REVOLUTION TO DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (1945 - 1954)



1945

- March:**
- 7 - The Japanese staged a coup de force in Indochina.
 - 12 - The CC of the ICP worked out directives pointing out that the task of our Party at the moment was to launch a large-scale anti-Japanese movement and prepare for a general insurrection.
- August:**
- 13 - Capitulation of Japan.
 - 13 to 15 - A National Congress of the ICP decided for carrying out a general insurrection.
 - 16 - The National Liberation Committee was founded with Ho Chi Minh as President.
 - 19 - A people's insurrection broke out in Hanoi. A 200,000-strong meeting was held, followed by a declaration on the overthrow of the Tran Trong Kim puppet government and the founding of the people's power.
 - 25 - A people's insurrection broke out in Saigon.
- September:**
- 2 - In Hanoi President Ho Chi Minh solemnly declared that: "Viet Nam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and in fact, has become a free and independent country. The entire Vietnamese people are ready to mobilize all their moral and material force, to sacrifice their lives and possessions for the safeguarding of their freedom and independence."
 - 13 - The Lien Viet Front (Vietnamese People's National Union) was founded.
 - 17 - The French colonialists sent to Paris a puppet delegation to prepare for the constitution of an "Autonomous Cochinchinese Government."
 - 25 - The Lien Viet Front (Vietnamese People's National Union) was founded.
 - 27 - The Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour was founded.
 - 31 - A delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Pham Van Dong left for Paris to hold official negotiations with the French.
 - 31 - On the same day, President Ho Chi Minh took the plane for an official visit to France.
- June:**
- 1 - The (puppet) Cochinchinese Government was set up by the French.
 - General Lu Han, Commander-in-Chief of the Chiang Kai-shek troops coming to disarm the Japanese troops north of the 16th Parallel, arrived in Hanoi.
 - 21 - British troops received martial law in Saigon and armed 1,400 French soldiers who had been jailed by the Japanese.
 - 22 - Protected by the British, the French colonialists launched a war of reconquest in Saigon.
 - 25 - The Party's Central Committee defined new tasks: to launch the anti-French resistance, set up the people's power in the political, military, economic and cultural fields.
- December:**
- 3 - A congress of representatives of the national minorities was held in Hanoi: thanks to the August

Revolution they could now enjoy equal rights with the majority people in all fields.

1946

- January:**
- 6 - General elections were held: 90% of the electors voted to the polls. President Ho Chi Minh was elected in Hanoi with 109,222 votes (98.4 per cent of the total cast).
- March:**
- 2 - First session of the Viet Nam National Assembly: Ho Chi Minh was elected President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and entrusted with the task of setting up a new government.
 - 6 - A preliminary agreement was signed between President Ho Chi Minh and Sainteny, representative of the French Government.
 - 27 - The French occupied by force the Finance Service in Hanoi.
- April:**
- 8 - General Valluy, Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in Northern Indochina, sent his troops directives for the reconquest of Viet Nam.
 - 17 - The Preparatory Franco-Vietnamese Conference opened in Dalat. Its central problem was Nam Bo. For the Vietnamese delegation, Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet Nam; on the contrary, the French wanted to separate it from Viet Nam. After a month of vain discussions, no agreement was reached.
 - 23 - The French colonialists sent to Paris a puppet delegation to prepare for the constitution of an "Autonomous Cochinchinese Government."
- May:**
- 25 - The Lien Viet Front (Vietnamese People's National Union) was founded.
 - 27 - The Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour was founded.
 - 31 - A delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Pham Van Dong left for Paris to hold official negotiations with the French.
 - 31 - On the same day, President Ho Chi Minh took the plane for an official visit to France.
- June:**
- 1 - The (puppet) Cochinchinese Government was set up by the French.
 - General Lu Han, Commander-in-Chief of the Chiang Kai-shek troops coming to disarm the Japanese troops north of the 16th Parallel, arrived in Hanoi.
 - 21 - British troops received martial law in Saigon and armed 1,400 French soldiers who had been jailed by the Japanese.
 - 22 - Protected by the British, the French colonialists launched a war of reconquest in Saigon.
 - 25 - The Party's Central Committee defined new tasks: to launch the anti-French resistance, set up the people's power in the political, military, economic and cultural fields.
- December:**
- 3 - A congress of representatives of the national minorities was held in Hanoi: thanks to the August

all fields: military, foreign affairs, etc. On the contrary, for the Vietnamese, Viet Nam, while remaining in the French Union, was a free and sovereign country, and Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet Nam.

August:

- The French convened at Dalat a "Federal Conference of Peoples" (Cochinchina, Laos and Cambodia). As a sign of protest, the Vietnamese delegation walked out of the Fontainebleau Conference.
- September:**
- 10 - Negotiations were resumed in Fontainebleau. The French delegation put forward a draft agreement with clauses unacceptable to its interlocutors. In face of the Vietnamese delegation's categorical refusal, the head of the French delegation closed the meeting. The Vietnamese delegation returned to Hanoi. During the negotiations, the French had intensified their sending of troops to Indochina.
 - 14 - President Ho Chi Minh, staying on in Paris after the departure of the Vietnamese delegation, signed with the French Government a modus vivendi on monetary, cultural and economic questions and on the ceasefire in Nam Bo. A Franco-Vietnamese conference was scheduled for early 1947 to discuss the questions at issue.
- October:**
- 10 - The Viet Nam Women's Union was founded.
 - 28 - The Viet Nam National Assembly adopted the Constitution of the DRVN and set up a new government presided over by Ho Chi Minh.
 - 30 - The Vietnamese forces abode by the September 14 modus vivendi and stopped fighting in Nam Bo. On the contrary, on November 10, the French forces launched attacks on all fronts.
- November:**
- 20 - Nguyen Van Thinh, President of the puppet Cochinchinese government, committed suicide.
 - 20 - The French bombed Haiphong, causing over 6,000 deaths.
 - 28 - French troops occupied Lang Son (on the Sino-Vietnamese frontier).
- December:**
- 17 - The French carried out a massacre at Vernicelli Street in Hanoi, causing scores of deaths.
 - 18 - French troops occupied the Finance Service in Hanoi. The Hanoi population resisted.
 - President Ho Chi Minh proposed to French Premier Leon Blum to settle the dispute and suggested the sending of a French delegation to Viet Nam as a prelude to future negotiations. His letter was not answered.
 - General Morliere, sent an ultimatum to the Vietnamese Government demanding that Vietnamese forces be disbanded.
 - 19 - The Party's Central Committee decided to launch the national-wide Resistance.
 - At 8.30 p.m. in Hanoi, national-wide Resistance started.
 - 20 - President Ho Chi Minh issued an appeal to the people: "We would rather sacrifice all than lose our country and live as slaves."

1947

- February:**
- 17 - After two months of fighting, the "Regiment of the Capital" whose mission was to pin down the French in Hanoi withdrew.
- March:**
- 5 - Bollert was appointed High Commissioner in Indochina.
 - May:
 - 12 - Paul Mus, Bollert's special envoy, met President Ho Chi Minh and presented to him the "conditions of the French Government for an armistice" which were only the demand for capitulation. The Vietnamese Government refused.
- October:**
- 10 - The French launched Operation "Léa" against Viet Bac, seeking to annihilate the leading organs of the Vietnamese Resistance.
- December:**
- 19 - Operation "Léa" ended. On the French side, 3,300 soldiers had been killed, 18 airplanes, 255 armoured vehicles, 16 rivercraft destroyed.
 - The Vietnamese *dong* was put in circulation. This monetary measure was an integral part of the new economic policy of the DRVN following the August 1945 Revolution.
- 1948**
- January:**
- 15 - The Party Central Committee assessed the situation: After our victory in Viet Bac, the National Resistance had switched over to the stage of equilibrium of forces.
- February:**
- 14 - The French launched a large-scale attack on the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).
- March:**
- 1 - At Lang A (Nam Bo) the Vietnamese forces destroyed 50 armoured vehicles and killed 150 enemy troops.
 - 18 - The People's Army launched campaign Nghia Lo (North-West of Bac Bo). The French troops evacuated 7 posts.
- April:**
- 19 - Tam Vu battle in Nam Bo: 200 French soldiers killed and 14 armoured vehicles destroyed.
- June:**
- 5 - A preliminary convention was signed between the puppet Nguyen Van Xuan and Bollert: a puppet government would be created for the whole of Viet Nam.
 - 19 - A patriotic emulation drive was launched: President Ho Chi Minh called on the people to consolidate national unity, step up production and fight even better.
- October:**
- 8 - The North-East Campaign (in Bac Bo) was launched by the People's Army.
 - 21 - Pignon replaced Bollert as High Commissioner.
- 1949**
- March:**
- 9 - An agreement was signed between Bao Dai and Vincent Auriol, "solely recognizing the independence of Viet Nam." In fact, "independent" Viet Nam remained a French neo-colony.

April:

- 29 - The French forces attacked Phu Tho - Tuyen Quang to hinder the advance of the Vietnamese forces to the Midlands. The People's Army riposted in launching a campaign along the River Lo, inflicting a heavy defeat on the French.
- May:**
- General Revers, Chief-of-Staff of the French Army, proposed that the front be shortened and the Bac Bo delta consolidated.
- June:**
- 2 - Failure of a French large-scale offensive in the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).
- July:**
- 14 - Decrees were promulgated on the reduction of land rent and interest rate and on the provisional distribution to the poor peasants of land formerly belonging to the French colonialists and Vietnamese traitors.
- August:**
- 9 - The French evacuated Bac Can (Viet Bac).
- October:**
- 16 - The French occupied Phat Dien, one of the bastions of the Catholic Church in Bac Bo.
- 1950**
- January:**
- 9 - In Saigon 25,000 persons attended the funeral of school-pupils killed by the puppet police: January 9 became the national day of struggle of students and school-pupils in Viet Nam.
 - 18 - The USSR, People's China and the other socialist countries recognized the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.
 - Vietnamese commando units attacked Bac Mai airfield (on the Hanoi outskirts) and destroyed 25 airplanes.
 - The Saigon workers staged great strikes.
- February:**
- 2 - The Party's 3rd National Congress decided to "complete preparations to switch over to the stage of general counter-offensive."
 - 7 - The USA and Great Britain recognized the Bao Dai puppet State.
 - 8 - The People's Army launched campaign Le Hong Phung I (North-East of Bac Bo).
 - 12 - The watchword "Everything for the Front, Everything for Victory" was launched to mobilize all the national forces.
- March:**
- 19 - The Saigon population demonstrated against the arrival of American warships in Saigon.
- May:**
- 15 - The People's Army launched campaign Phan Dinh Phung (Trung Bo) lasting 2 months.
- July:**
- The People's Army launched Campaign Darlac in the High-Plateaux (Trung Bo).
- September:**
- 16 - The People's Army launched the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Campaign.
- November:**
- 5 - In the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Campaign 9 French battalions with 11,000 men were annihilated, 4,000 sq km region with 350,000 inhabitants was liberated. The Sino-

Vietnamese frontier was fully opened and the scheme of isolating the DRVN was frustrated. General De Lattre was urgently dispatched to Indochina (as Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief) to save the situation.

1951

- January:**
- 7 French battalions were annihilated in Campaign Tran Hung Dao launched by the People's Army on December 26, 1950.
- February:**
- 11 - The Party's 2nd National Congress was held. The Communist Party from now on became the Viet Nam Workers' Party.
- March:**
- 2 - The Lien Viet Front merged with the Lien Viet Front.
- April:**
- 7 - End of the Hoang Hoa Tham Campaign launched on March 20 along Road No 18 (Bac Bo) by the P.A. A French counter-offensive resulted in 2,021 French troops being killed and 1,025 others wounded or taken prisoner.
- May:**
- 1 - Promulgation of a system of unified agricultural tax, collected in kind and replacing all former taxes and contributions.
 - The National Bank was founded. It issued a banknote - the new *dong*, worth to old *dongs*.
 - The State Trade Service was organized.
- June:**
- 20 - End of the Quang Trung Campaign launched on May 28 by the P.A. in Ninh Binh (Bac Bo): more than 3,000 French troops were killed.
- July:**
- 15 - Bao Dai promulgated a decree on "general mobilization" to create a puppet "national army."
 - A "De Lattre belt" (no man's land) started to be built along the De Lattre line. It was a zone from 5 to 16 km wide, where all dwelling houses were destroyed, encircling the Bac Bo delta.
- September:**
- The French launched great mopping-up operations in Hung Yen and Thai Binh (Bac Bo) to try and check the ever-growing guerrilla movement.
- November:**
- 14 - 5 French mobile groups occupied Hoa Binh.
 - 18 - The Party Central Committee decided to attack the enemy on two fronts: two regular divisions would penetrate into the enemy's rear for an offensive in co-ordination with the guerrilla forces; four other divisions would encircle the enemy in Hoa Binh and along Road No 6.
- 1952**
- February:**
- 28 - End of the Hoa Binh Campaign. On the two fronts, 22,000 French soldiers had been put out of action. The French Expeditionary Corps had to fall back on the defensive.
- March:**
- 10 - Salan replaced De Lattre and concentrated his forces in the Bac Bo delta; during the year 1952 he launched great mopping-up operations.

- May:**
- 1 - National Congress of Elite Fighters.
- July:**
- 6 - The enemy launched great mopping-up operations in Thua Thien (Trung Bo) aimed at rounding up Vietnamese youth to reinforce the puppet army.
 - The 2nd European battalion of the French Expeditionary Corps demanded its repatriation.
- October:**
- 14 - The P.A. launched the North-West Campaign lasting more than one month and resulting in 13,800 enemy troops being killed, and a 28,000 sq km area with 250,000 inhabitants liberated. The French scheme to set up a "Thai Autonomous State" was foiled. The French forces withdrew to Nasan.

1953

- January:**
- 14 - Winter-Spring Military Campaign in the 5th Interzone (Trung Bo).
 - 23 to 30 - The Party Central Committee defined the main tasks for 1953, one of which was to mobilize the masses to complete land reform and the reduction of land rent.
 - Salan once more tried to carry out his policy of "pacification" of the Bac Bo delta by launching a series of great mopping-up operations.
- April:**
- 14 - Upper-Laos Campaign: in co-ordination with Vietnamese volunteers, Pathet Lao forces liberated Sam Neua province (28,500 sq km).
- May:**
- 8 - Navarre replaced Salan.
- June:**
- 20 - An American military mission arrived in Indochina.
- July:**
- 17 - The "Navarre plan" started to be applied: a paratroops battalion was sent to Lang Son (Bac Bo); 4 infantry battalions landed in Tien Yen and met it on Road No 14. Three days later, the French had to withdraw.
- August:**
- 6 - The French evacuated Nasan (North-West of Bac Bo).
- October:**
- 15 - 3 French mobile groups were sent to Ninh Binh-Thanh Hoa (Bac Bo). The operation lasted nearly one month and cost the French 2,630 killed and 1,170 others taken prisoner.
- November:**
- 14 - The Party Central Committee took a decision on the carrying out of land reform starting from 1954.
 - 20 - Navarre sent paratroopers to Dien Bien Phu.
 - 26 - In his reply to the Swedish paper *Expressen*, President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "...If after drawing lessons from those war years, the French Government wants to conclude an armistice and solve the Viet Nam question by negotiations, the people and Government of the DRVN are ready to consider the French proposals... the basis of an armistice is that the French Government should really respect the independence of Viet Nam. The negotiation of an armistice concerns essentially the Government of France and that of Viet Nam."

- December:**
- 1 - The National Assembly adopted the Law on Land Reform.
 - 3 - Navarre decided to "accept the North-West battle - The defence of the North-West will be concentrated on Dien Bien Phu."
 - 12 - Liberation of the provincial capital of Lai Chau.
 - 21 - The Pathet Lao forces launched an attack on Thakhet (Middle Laos) which was liberated on December 25. Navarre sent 12 mobile battalions to Sene (Laos).
- 1954**
- January:**
- 20 - 22 French battalions landed in Phu Yen and Tuy Hoa (Trung Bo).
 - 25 - The Viet Nam High Command reposted in launching an offensive in the High Plateaux to attract the main body of French forces and in intensifying guerrilla warfare in the plain region of the 5th Interzone. The whole of Kontum province (14,000 sq km) was liberated.
 - 26 - Pathet Lao forces launched the Upper-Laos Campaign, forcing Navarre to scatter still more his mobile forces.
 - 31 - In Lower Laos, Pathet Lao forces attacked Attapeu and liberated the Boloven High Plateaux.
- February:**
- 7 - The American General O'Daniel visited Dien Bien Phu.
 - 18 - Closing of the Berlin Conference: the Indochina question would be discussed at a conference to be held in Geneva in April.
- March:**
- 7 - The stage of French Operation Atlantic: landing in Qui Nhon.
 - 13 - Opening of the Dien Bien Phu battle which went through 3 stages: the first offensive lasting from March 13 to 29; the 2nd offensive from March 30 to April 30; and the general offensive from May 1 to 7.
 - 29 - In Paris, the War Committee met to study Operation Vautour which was meant to clear the way for direct American intervention (by the participation of US heavy bombers in the Dien Bien Phu battle).
- April:**
- 26 - Opening of the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indochina.
 - 27 - Launching by the French of Operation Condor in Laos.
- May:**
- 7 - The French garrison at Dien Bien Phu surrendered.
 - 8 - The Geneva Conference discussed the Indochina question.
 - The first drive of land reform was launched in late May.
- June:**
- 19 - Mendes-France replaced Laniel, who had been overthrown on June 8, as Head of the new French Government.
 - During June, French troops evacuated the principal centres of the Bac Bo delta.
- July:**
- 21 - Signing of the Geneva Agreements which put an end to the war in Indochina.
- Forthcoming: Chronology of events (1954-1970)**

— DRVN Foreign Ministry's July 29 Statement
on Commitment of Thailand Troops to Cambodia

In introducing aggressive troops into Cambodia, the Thanom-Praphas reactionary clique are grossly encroaching upon the independence, neutrality, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Cambodia, breached the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and all international law. In so doing they are defying the opinion of the people and many political figures in Thailand who are ever more vigorously critical of the introduction of Thai troops into Cambodia. This is an arrogant challenge to the Cambodian and other peoples of Indochina and world public opinion now angered by the US

On July 5 the Stung Treng liberation forces downed one US-Saigon aircraft over its provincial capital. The National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia attacked on the night of July 10 and in the daytime of July

Should they obdurately embark on military adventures to serve the US war of aggression in this area, they would certainly meet with ignominious failure.

On the following days from July 12 to 15 the NLA fought off all reinforcements, inflicting hundreds of adverse casualties.

"The Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee warmly welcome the sensible attitude of the Soviet Government. It severely condemns the British Government's unilateral and illegal step as completely invalid."

On the other hand, they split and sap the students and pupils' effort. On July 4, Thieu went to the length of threatening it with the use of force, and of deciding to

Not only have we started from scratch, and offset the shortage of cadres and materials, but we have overcome all kinds of su-

**ACTIONS BY OTHER SOCIAL
SECTIONS**

Pressmen wrote articles denouncing the crack-down on journalists and gagging

**VIETNAMESE
STUDIES**
special issue on this subject

The intellectual circles in Saigon also battled for freedom of artistic creation against the import of pornographic books, periodicals and films; businessmen pressed for restriction of imports and help for home industries.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help

us to serve you more efficiently in future.

South Viet Nam

HILL 935, a New A-Bia for US Troops

THE US Command was forced to have on July 23 its "Ripcord" base, located on Hill 935, 40 kilometres west of Hue, evacuated by 101st Airborne Division after 24 days and nights under continuous PLAF fire. US toll was disastrous: 1,700 officers and men put out of action, 97 aircraft and choppers downed or wrecked on the ground, 16 heavy guns and one radar station blasted out of commission, a great quantity of materials destroyed. The 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was seriously battered: 3 battalions knocked out or decimated, which means 13 infantry and artillery companies and two battalion CPs wiped out.

This was the most dramatic PLAF exploit since the Tet 1968 assaults on Hue.

It was also the most severe punishment meted out to the US 101st Airborne Division since its arrival in the area (over a year now) to strengthen US defence and put the so-called "preventive defence" plan into practice.

Western agencies revealed that the losses sustained by US troops on Hill 935 were heavier than those suffered in A-Bia in May 1969.

From A-Bia to Hill 935, US troops experienced an "escalation" in their casualties. Their "preventive defence" tactics once more came to a flop. As a mainstay of puppet troops in the "Vietnamization" program, the 101st Airborne Division lamentably failed: during the last three months the 54th Regiment of the puppet army stationed in Hue came under devast-

tating PLAF attacks especially at Khe Don, Co Tien, etc.

While the American and puppet soldiers were successively whittled down on the outward defence perimeter, their sanctuaries in the plains and around Hue city were not immune either. Since early this month, regular and regional forces together with PLAF guerrillas have inflicted heavy losses in human lives and materials on the bases of the US 101st Division, the puppet First Division in Dong Lam, Bich Dien, La Vang, Xuoc Du, Van Thanh, Tan Ba, Mang Ca, My Thuy, etc.

US Hill 935 disaster was a vivid illustration of PLAF capacity of mounting many simultaneous and highly effective operations.



PLAF men attacking an enemy position

GUERRILLAS AND REGIONAL FORCES MORE ACTIVE

TRA VINH: An enemy "pacification" team attacked at Tam Ngai, and suffered 50 casualties (night of July 16).

Many adverse positions assailed and surrounded: over 100 troops wiped out; 2 choppers downed and 1 vehicle destroyed (July 7-13).

VINH LONG: 65 enemy troops knocked out; 2 helicopters grounded; a great quantity of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment captured (July 14 and 15).

BACH GIA: A "pacification agent" unit mown down at Thanh Hung village: only 1 survivor (night of July 4).

CAN THO: 60 men from 2 "civil guard" companies put out of action at Vinh Thuan village (July 20).

QUANG NAM: Over 100 adverse casualties; 5 armoured cars, one gun and a dozen of blockhouses wrecked; a lot of weapons and ammunition seized (July 4-9).

QUANG NGAI: American troops backing puppet soldiers in their "mop-up" in the environs of Nui Tron repeatedly assaulted: nearly 70 GIs knocked out; 5 vehicles damaged and one aircraft shot down (July 5-7).

IN THE UNITED STATES

* A "HOT" SUMMER HAS BEGUN

FOR the last few days a series of actions has been mounted by the Black and the coloured people in the United States, which has raised in American public opinion apprehensions of a "hot" summer.

In Asbury Park city thousands of Afro-Americans poured into the streets for three days on end (July 5 to 7) for the right to live and against oppression and racial segregation. They put forth twenty fundamental and urgent claims concerning employment, wage, life, better housing and recreation plans for Black people and liquidation of racialism, etc. The Governor of New Jersey declared martial law and called in hundreds of para-troopers and policemen. The demonstrators fought back valiantly, upset numerous vehicles and set fire to segregationists' houses. On July 5 Black youth "deployed their forces" (AFP) and resisted the para-troops all day long and in the end drove them out of their ghetto.

On the night of July 11 fierce clashes between the Black people and the coppers took place in Michigan city (Indiana) and New Bedford (Massachusetts). Afro-Americans in New Brunswick from July 21 to 23 protested against repression, terror and racialism. In Florida, they revolted against policemen's ill-treatment of two Black women. Violent clashes between constables and Blacks

happened on the nights of July 23 and 24 and curfew was consequently imposed on the city. In Cairo (Illinois) similar incidents occurred. In Houston (Texas) the authorities from July 25 to 27 unwarrantedly cracked down on Afro-Americans and shot dead one of their leaders, Carl Hampton. The Black militants returned an angry fire at the police and set ablaze one of their cars.

On July 16 in Los Angeles policemen were sent to ransack the living quarters of American citizens of Mexican origin and killed two of them. The rest held requiem for the victims and strongly protested the murder. In West Chester, when an American citizen of Puerto Rico origin was cut down by policemen 400 others, mostly Puerto Ricans, staged a protest demonstration. They were met with force and 23 of them were arrested.

Newweek sent its correspondents to the Black ghettos in fifty cities for investigation and came to the conclusion that the 1970 summer was as "hot" as the previous ones. The magazine has also revealed that the Blacks expected nothing from the present US administration. All this throws light on the racial discrimination, terrorism and repression of Mr Nixon and such "hardliners" in his administration as Agnew, Mitchell, etc., ones that the American press usually refers to as "segregationists."

* MASSACHUSETTS URGES U.S. WAR IN VIET NAM BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

THE State of Massachusetts on June 21 urged the US Supreme Court to declare that the US war in Viet Nam is "unconstitutional," Western sources said.

In a suit that name Secretary of Defence Melvin Laird as "defendant," the State said that the Executive of the Federal Government was acting illegally in committing American troops to the war and that short of a declaration of war by Congress, the President was acting "unconstitutionally" when he sent GIs to Viet Nam to fight.

The impeachment noted that when it joined the union Massachusetts rendered its own sovereign right to conduct foreign

relations and make war in exchange for an assurance that the nation as a whole would take part in wars only after a formal declaration by Congress, and that war-making powers could be exercised only by Congress. Therefore, Massachusetts must have a peaceful forum to present its case and to have the controversy settled.

The suit was filed by Massachusetts Attorney General Robert Quinn in response to a measure enacted by the Massachusetts legislature in April. It stressed that the undeclared war of the US Federal Government in Viet Nam was "unconstitutional," and recognized the right of Massachusetts citizens to refuse to take part in it.